

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-07

FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NASA-01 IO-13 OIC-02 /099 W
----- 102253

R 241017Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 811

IXNFO RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5780

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: INTELSAT, ETEL, TW

SUBJECT: INTELSAT - ROC MEMBERSHIP AND ACCESS

REF: STATE 207815, TAIPEI 5709

1. ECON COUN DISCUSSED INTELSAT ISSUE WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FANG HSIEN-CHI (JIMMY FANG) ON AUGUST 28. FANG STATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THAT VERY MORNING COPY OF MESSAGE FROM MARTIN WONG TO MOFA ON WONG'S MEETING IN DEPARTMENT AUGUST 19. ACCORDING TO FANG, MARTIN WONG STATED THAT IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT ROC MEMBERSHIP IN INTELSAT WILL BE CHALLENGED BY FRIENDS OF PRC AT NAIROBI, AND THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT ROC CAN MUSTER ENOUGH SUPPORT TO DEFEAT SUCH A CHALLENGE. GROC WILL HAVE TO DECIDE URGENTLY, THEREFORE, WHETHER IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ROC TO WITHDRAW FROM INTELSAT BEFORE IT IS EXPELLED OR WAIT UNTIL THE AXE FALLS. OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE, GROC WILL HAVE TO DECIDE ON TACTICS TO BE EMPLOYED IN ENSURING THAT ROC ACCESS TO INTELSAT COMMUNICATIONS

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IS NOT IMPAIRED WHEN GROC IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE ORGANI-

ZATION. IN HIS MESSAGE, WONG ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO TAIPEI ON SEPTEMBER 1 OR 2 FOR CONSULTATIONS. ECON COUN ASKED FANG IF MARTIN WONG HAD MADE ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO POSSIBLE GROC TACTICS. FANG REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT, BUT HE ASSUMED THAT WONG WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO SO WHEN HE RETURNS TO TAIPEI.

2. FANG STATED THAT GROC'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN REMAINS RIGHT OF ACCESS. HE ASKED IF GROC ASSUMPTION THAT USG WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THAT RIGHT REMAINS VALID. HE WAS ASSURED THAT USG SUPPORT COULD BE COUNTED ON. BUT WHAT, ASKED FANG, IF AFTER PRC BECOMES MEMBER OF INTELSTAT, IT DEMANDS THAT TRAFFIC FROM TAIWAN BE ROUTED THROUGH PRC SINCE IT CLAIMS TAIWAN AS INTEGRAL PART OF CHINA? WOULD USG AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH NOW SUPPORT RIGHT OF ACCESS BE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR ROC INTERESTS IN EVENT OF DETERMINED PRC EFFORT SUPPORTED BY ITS FRIENDS? PRC MIGHT NOT MAKE ISSUE OF ACCESS NOW, BUT CAN WE BE SURE IT WON'T DO SO ONCE IT IS A MEMBER? GROC WOULD FEEL MUCH LESS NERVOUS IF PRC IS ADMITTED TO INTELSTAT ONLY ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ROC'S ACCESS IS GUARANTEED.

3. EMBASSY OBVIOUSLY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO FANG'S QUESTIONS INCE IT IS UNACQUAINTED WITH INTELSTAT VOTING AND OTHER PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING THE ISSUES HE RAISES. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE SINCE THESE ISSUES INEVITABLY WILL COME UP IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH GROC.

4. MARTIN WONG NORMALLY MEETS WITH ECON COUN WHEN HE IS IN TAIPEI AND IT MAY BE ASSUMED HE WILL DO SO EARLY IN SEPTEMBER. EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, REPORT PROMPTLY ANY FURTHER INFORMATION IT IS ABLE TO OBTAIN.
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